The INOVA BRAMBOARD upgrade for the Osborne Executive

Preliminary Information

Revisions:

85/02/27 -- Original (Note: Product names subject to change)

Executive version:

The BRAMBOARD, INOVA's RAM upgrade for the Executive, comes in two
forms: 384 Kbytes total RAM, and 512 Kbytes total RAM. (128K is
already reserved by the CP/M Plus operating system.) If demand
warrants, a version expandable to 1 Mbytes will be released.

The RAM upgrade is unusual in that, when installed, it is actually
additional banked memory for the Executive, instead of port-mapped
or co-processor-controlled memory. Consequently, the BRAMBOARD
requires less electrical power, less software overhead for control
(and even that software does not take away from your program space),
and Z-80 instructions can be directly executed within any bank,
saving even more time and space. And it's fast, too -- the entire
contents of a standard Executive floppy disk can be read into the
BRAMBOARD in less than 20 seconds with our software, and MBASIC can
be loaded in 1/2 second from the RamDisk (compare that with 4-5
seconds from floppy!)

A small patch to CPM3.SYS is required to enable support of three
logical drives (A, B, and C). You can still use this patched
operating system as before.

Examples of current ramdisk software:

    rd /rb /bca DIR   Loads the ramdisk software, mass-copies
                         the contents of drive B to the ramdisk (in
                         less than 20 seconds), redefines the ramdisk
                         to be logical drive A, and the floppy drives
                         to be B and C, respectively, and shows the
                         ramdisk's directory.

    rd   Used to initialize the ramdisk. Does not
                         erase any previous files on ramdisk (which
                         remain until power is removed, files are
                         erased, or a mass-copy is performed).
                         Pressing RESET does not affect the ramdisk
                         contents.

    rd /abc   Restores original drive configuration
                         (redefines floppies to be A and B, and the
                         ramdisk to be drive C)

    rd /r   Copies the contents of drive A to the
                         ramdisk.

In addition, the BRAMBOARD comes with a super enhancement to the Executive operating system -- a logical extension to the KEYS program that provides additional features like:

- a resident calculator, with the answer put on a function key
- 4 resident function key sets (swap 'em in two keystrokes!)
- a redefinable keyboard
- a resident memory editor
- on-line help and reconfiguration
- recursive function keys (control-1 can call control-2, etc.)
- the ability to move the cursor to a line on the screen and "capture" it for use like a function key
- the ability to edit your screen before you print it
- the ability to recall and use any of the last ten lines you typed
- instant ASCII-hex-decimal conversion chart
- and much, much more

with all the old KEYS capabilities -- without any loss of program space! This software resides in one of the additional banks of memory and is executed there -- something our competition can't do. (A non-ramdisk version of this KEYS extension may be available soon, but at the sacrifice of buffer space used by the CPM Plus Operating System for faster operation.)

We are working on a software modification to allow use of the extra memory as a "free" print buffer -- instead of tying up your computer while printing, you will be "printing" to our BRAMBOARD memory, and our software will print to your printer while you use your computer for other tasks.

Physical installation is as simple as removing your old memory card and replacing it with the BRAMBOARD -- no soldering, no mounting difficulties. In addition, there is no loss of your diskette slot, leaving it available for diskettes or the Osborne modem.

The price of the 512K BRAMBOARD (with software, 1 year warranty, and 1 year free software updates) will be approximately $425 plus shipping/handling (about $5) and any applicable state and local taxes. The price of the 384K BRAMBOARD (with the same features otherwise) will be approximately $350. A rebate of $25 for your old memory board is currently being offered, but this is subject to change.

****** COMPARE! ******

For more information, contact Joel Guerra at INOVA, 11311 Stemmons Frwy., Suite 7, Dallas, TX 75229, phone (214) 241-9515.

Inova 500

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